



# HBV Fact Sheet

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), is one of a family of related DNA viruses that affects the liver.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

Signs and symptoms are less common in children than adults, however no symptoms may occur.

Symptoms of HBV include:

- Jaundice (3-10 days long)
- Fever
- Body weakness/Discomfort
- Headaches
- Muscle pains
- Poor appetite
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Right upper abdominal pain
- Skin rashes
- Joint pain/arthritis
- Dark Urine
- Light or gray stools
- Tender or enlarged liver

## TRANSMISSION:

HBV infections are transmitted through:

- Vaginal, anal, or oral sex
- Puncture in skin (percutaneously)
  - Sharing needles
- Perinatally: Mother-to-Child

## RISK FACTORS FOR ACQUIRING HBV:

- Household contacts of chronically infected
- Having multiple sex partners
- Men who have sex with men
- Injection drug users

## COMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES:

- In most adults acute HBV results in a complete recovery
- Fulminant (serious) hepatitis occurs in 1 – 2%, with a mortality (death) rate of 63-93%
- Cirrhosis of liver
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- About 10% of all acute HBV infections progress to chronic HBV
- In infants (acquired at birth) about 90% progress to chronic HBV
- Death

## TREATMENT

- Treatment for Acute HBV is supportive
- Alpha interferon, adefovir dipivoxil, and lamivudine are available to treat chronic HBV

## PREVENTION:

- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Use latex condoms during all sexual contact
- Pregnant females should get tested for HBV
- Do not use injection drugs or share needles, syringes, water, or drugs
- If you have HBV do not donate blood, organs, or tissue
- Do not share personal items that may have blood on them, i.e. razors and toothbrushes.

## VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Routine Vaccination of 0 to 18 years olds
- Men who have sex with men
- Heterosexuals with multiple sex partners
- Prostitutes
- Injection drug users
- Persons diagnosed with STD(s)
- Persons receiving dialysis
- Healthcare workers

Note: Drinking alcohol can make your liver disease worse.

### Contact Information:

For more information pertaining to Florida clinical services, sites, and treatment recommendations please visit us on the web at [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/std/clinical/clinical.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/std/clinical/clinical.html) or email us at: [HSD\\_STD@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:HSD_STD@doh.state.fl.us).

### National STD Hotline

1-800-227-8922 (24 hrs, 7 days a week)

### Spanish

1-800-344-7432 (8am-2pm EST, 7 days a week)

### Hearing Impaired

1-800-243-7889 (10am-10pm EST, Mon.-Fri.)